

Claims:

What is claimed is:

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1. A mattress for a bed having a frame for supporting the mattress and siderails, including:
 - a non-puncture resistant cover having an interior surface; and
 - a core disposed adjacent the interior surface including a body defining a plurality of mounting locations, the core further including a plurality of self-sealing gas containers respectively disposed within the plurality of mounting locations.
2. The mattress of claim 1 wherein each mounting location includes an enclosure.
3. The mattress of claim 2 wherein each enclosure provides a substantially cylindrical space for receiving a respective container.
4. The mattress of claim 1 wherein the body is formed of substantially non-stretchable material.
5. The mattress of claim 4 wherein the substantially non-stretchable material is one of substantially non-stretchable fabric and substantially non-stretchable film.
6. The mattress of claim 1 wherein the body is formed of woven nylon twill.
7. The mattress of claim 1 wherein the cover defines an interior space bounded by the interior surface, the core being disposed substantially within the interior space.
8. The mattress of claim 1 wherein the containers are substantially cylindrical.
9. The mattress of claim 1 wherein the body includes an upper layer and a lower layer, the upper and lower layers being connected at a plurality of seams, thereby forming substantially cylindrical spaces for receiving the plurality of containers.
10. The mattress of claim 9 wherein the plurality of seams are substantially parallel to one another.
11. The mattress of claim 1 wherein the containers are connected to a connected to a gas source.
12. The mattress of claim 1 wherein the cover includes a sleep surface opposite the interior surface.
13. The mattress of claim 1 wherein the siderails have a minimum height above a sleep surface of the cover, and the core has a height, substantially all of the core height being occupied by the plurality of containers.

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14. The mattress of claim 1 wherein one of the containers is pressurized to a first pressure and another of the containers is pressurized to a second pressure that is different from the first pressure.

15. A mattress for a bed having a frame for supporting the mattress and siderails, including:

a non-puncture resistant cover defining having an interior surface; and

a core disposed adjacent the interior surface including a plurality of enclosures, each enclosure including a self-sealing lining.

16. The mattress of claim 15 wherein each enclosure defines a substantially cylindrical space.

17. The mattress of claim 15 wherein the plurality of enclosures are formed of substantially non-stretchable material.

18. The mattress of claim 17 wherein the substantially non-stretchable material is one of substantially non-stretchable fabric and substantially non-stretchable film.

19. The mattress of claim 15 wherein the plurality of enclosures are formed of woven nylon twill.

20. The mattress of claim 15 wherein the cover defines an interior space bounded by the interior surface, the core being disposed substantially within the interior space.

21. The mattress of claim 15 wherein the body includes an upper layer and a lower layer, the upper and lower layers being connected at a plurality of seams, thereby forming the plurality of enclosures.

22. The mattress of claim 21 wherein the plurality of seams are substantially parallel to one another.

23. The mattress of claim 15 wherein the plurality of enclosures are connected to a gas source, the gas source pressurizing the enclosures with a gas.

24. The mattress of claim 23 wherein one of the plurality of enclosures is pressurized to a first pressure and another of the plurality of enclosures is pressurized to a second pressure that is different from the first pressure.

25. The mattress of claim 15 wherein the cover includes a sleep surface opposite the interior surface.

26. The mattress of claim 25 wherein the siderails have a minimum height above the cover sleep surface, thereby defining a maximum height of the core, substantially all of the maximum core height being occupied by the plurality of enclosures.

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27. A mattress, including:

means for defining a core including a plurality of sealed enclosures containing a gas; and

means for automatically re-sealing a puncture in any of the plurality of enclosures to prevent the gas from being released.

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